



Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation

OUR MISSION

The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation promotes health equity and improves the health outcomes of populations disproportionately affected by serious diseases and conditions by strengthening community-based health care worker capacity, integrating medical care and community-based supportive services, and mobilizing communities in the fight against serious diseases.

OUR FOCUS ON INEQUITIES IN CANCER

The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation supports innovative, community-based programs that address the needs for cancer care and patient support among disparity populations in the United States, Central and Eastern Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

Over the years, the Foundation and its partners around the world have:

- Increased the skills and capacity of oncology nurses in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)
- Established Centers of Excellence for nursing practice, smoking cessation and palliative care in the CEE region
- Launched a first-of-its-kind statewide lung cancer initiative in Kentucky, where lung cancer deaths exceed the national average by 50 percent
- Partnered with the George W. Bush Institute, Susan G. Komen, UNAIDS, PEPFAR and others in the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon coalition to address cervical and breast cancers among women living with HIV in Africa

Each year, more than 14 million people are diagnosed with cancer and 8 million people worldwide die from cancer. About six in 10 cancer deaths occur in less developed regions and disparities in cancer persist among the poor, racial minorities and vulnerable people. The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation is working to change that for people living with lung, skin and cervical cancers.

Increasing Lung Cancer Detection, Prevention and Survivorship in the Southeastern U.S.



The Foundation's *Bridging Cancer Care*[™] initiative focuses on pilot projects in select southeastern U.S. states with the highest lung cancer burden. The Foundation seeks to partner with organizations that are working to reduce the burden of lung cancer among minority and underserved populations. The initiative's goals are to accelerate the development, testing and implementation of innovative models of prevention, detection and education and to help people who are living with lung cancer access and navigate cancer care and community-based supportive services.

The Foundation's initial projects focus on Kentucky, which has more cases of lung cancer per capita than any other state, and on Georgia, where higher rates of smoking and other forms of tobacco use, plus secondhand smoke and industrial exposures, have translated into higher rates of lung cancer.



Helping Vulnerable Populations and Improving Access to Lung Cancer and Skin Cancer Care



In 2015, the Foundation launched a new grants program, *Specialty Care for Vulnerable Populations*, to catalyze sustainable improvement and expansion of specialty care service delivery for poor and minority populations living with lung and skin cancer. The program will support the development of care collaborations between primary care providers and cancer specialist teams as well as patient engagement and social support services.

For both skin cancer and lung cancer, poor and minority patients are diagnosed later and with more advanced disease, have worse access to quality care and experience greater mortality. For example, Medicaid patients are 2½ times more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage melanoma than privately insured patients. More than half (52%) of non-Hispanic black patients and 26% of Hispanic patients receive an initial diagnosis of advanced stage melanoma – versus 16% of non-Hispanic white patients – and the overall average five-year melanoma survival rate for African Americans is 75%, versus 93% for Caucasians.

In addition, African Americans are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer later, when cancer is more advanced and African Americans are more likely to wait longer after a lung cancer diagnosis to receive treatment, to refuse treatment, and to die in the hospital after surgery, according to the American Lung Association.

Although most patients with non-small cell lung cancer undergo surgery as part of their initial treatment, researchers found that African Americans were less likely than Hispanics or whites to have surgery in the early stages of the disease. Finally, African Americans experience poorer 5-year survival for lung cancer compared to whites.

Defining Excellence in Cancer Care for Patients in Central and Eastern Europe



In Central and Eastern Europe, the Foundation's *Bridging Cancer Care*™ initiative is working with partners in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Russia to improve cancer nursing skills and engage nurses to increase education and awareness and to improve cancer outcomes in their communities.

Bridging Cancer Care has established three Centers of Excellence to address a variety of cancer-related needs in the region:

- **The Cancer Care Nursing Practice Center of Excellence** in Saratov Oblast, Russia, draws on experiences that World Services of LaCrosse has gained from two previous projects funded by the Foundation. Those projects focused on expanding the scope of practice for nurses in providing care to cancer patients in the community and strengthening nursing education.

- **The Eastern Europe Nurses' Center of Excellence for Tobacco Control** in Prague, Czech Republic, provides smoking cessation training and resources to nurses and communities in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia. The center draws upon experiences that the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care has gained from projects previously funded by the Foundation. Those projects focused on improving tobacco control skills for general practice and oncology nurses in Eastern Europe, engaging them in delivering evidence-based cessation interventions and helping to raise community awareness about the need for tobacco control.
- **The Palliative Care Center of Excellence** founded by Hospice Casa Sperantei in Brasov, Romania, is working to standardize palliative care curriculums in nursing schools throughout the country and train oncology nurses throughout the region to become transformative leaders.

Promoting Awareness about Cervical Cancer and Breast Cancer in Africa



As a result of the success of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation's groundbreaking work in sub-Saharan Africa through *SECURE THE FUTURE*®, women with HIV are living longer lives. But these women face a new threat – cervical and breast cancers – which are among the leading killers of women in Africa because awareness about breast cancer is low and awareness about cervical cancer is virtually unknown.

The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation is working to change that by leveraging the infrastructure that *SECURE THE FUTURE* and its Technical Assistance Program faculty have built over the past 16 years in Africa to raise awareness about breast and cervical cancers and to build community support for education, screening and treatment efforts.

The Foundation is focusing its efforts in Tanzania, Swaziland, Lesotho and Ethiopia, where the incidence of cervical cancer is much higher than anywhere else in the world.